

Alaska Injury Prevention Newsletter – March 2003

Alaska News and Resources

1. Suicide Peak During Springtime
2. New Hunter Education Facility in Juneau
3. Alaska SAFE KIDS

National News and Resources

4. Dangers of Swallowing Foreign Objects
5. Safety Lit Abstracts
6. April Themes Related To Injury and Safety

Miscellaneous

7. Are You an Aggressive Driver?
8. When you hurt, I hurt
9. Consumer Product Safety Commission

1. An article ran in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner by Peggy Frank Freeland on March 24, reporting that incidents of suicide peak in Alaska in the spring. The article provides a good list for suicide risk factors. Find the story at:

<http://www.news-miner.com/Stories/0,1413,113%257E26822%257E,00.html?search=true>

2. There's a new facility in Juneau that will offer hunter education in all kinds of weather. The news was reported in the Juneau Empire Online March 23. You can find the article at:

www.JuneauEmpire.com/outdoors/

3. Alaska SAFE KIDS: There will be an Alaska SAFE KIDS health fair in Homer on April 26, from 10 am – 2 pm at the Homer HS Commons. For more information contact Sue Brooks 235-0285. On April 29 and on through May 2, there will be a Child Passenger Safety Technician Course in Fairbanks. Contact Corlis Taylor for more information 458-5585.

4. There have been two recent events reported on raising awareness for watching small children and infants when it comes to swallowing foreign objects. One report was about a case in Fallon, Nevada and another report came from the Phoenix Children's Hospital. The child in Nevada had on-going respiratory problems for several months; a chest X-ray found that the child had swallowed a penny. In Phoenix the child was already at the hospital and being treated for pneumonia when she stopped breathing. The culprit was a popcorn kernel. Both these stories had happy endings but remind us that when it comes to young ones everyone needs to be diligent about what is within a child's reach.

5. Safety Lit Abstracts can be found at www.safetylit.org. Without listing them all, the following two abstracts seemed worthy of mention from the most recent week's menu (week of March 24, 2003). "Children's response to a commercial back-up warning device," a study indicating that although most preschoolers showed that they heard the vehicle warning alarm none of them avoided the vehicle. "How much science is there in injury prevention and control?" is an abstract about the rigors of injury prevention study—better research methods are called for.

6. There are several themes during the month of April pertaining to injury prevention and control. You can find these themes for next month and any other month at: www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho/nho.asp#m4. Themes found for April are National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Youth Sports Safety Month, Women's Eye Health and Safety

Month, Sports Eye Safety Month, National Facial Protection Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. All these themes have web sites you can access for more information.

7. Are you an aggressive driver? Prepare for Alaska's heavy tourist months and find out by taking a quiz at:

www.aaaafoundation.org/quizzes/index.cfm?button=aggressive

8. "When you hurt, my brain says I hurt, too: study" a report on Reuters Health Information web site, March 25th. We are empathetic people. You can read the article at:

www.reutershealth.com/archive/2003/03/25/eline/links/20030325elin001.html

9. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on the website: www.cpsc.gov.

This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health Organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Karen Lawfer, Karen_lawfer@health.state.ak.us

Link for the AK-Prev and AK-EMSC list serve: http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_list_servers.htm

Link for AHELP list serve: <http://www.auroraweb.com/ahec>